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Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 00847 040246 Z

12
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 PM-09 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /086 W
---------- 099160
R 031145 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9317
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
CINCPAC
SECDEF/ ISA

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 847

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, AS, CE, MV UK
SUBJ: BRITISH NAVAL SHIP VISIT TO COLOMBO AND TRINCOMALEE

CINCPAC PASS POLAD

1. HMS CHICHESTER (FRIGATE) WILL CALL AT TRINCOMALEE APRIL 10 FOR FIRST VISIT OF FOREIGN WARSHIP THERE SINCE UK MINESWEEPER CALLED OCT 1970. TRINCOMALEE HAS REMAINED OFF- LIMITS TO NAVAL SHIPS AND DATT PREVIOUSLY PRIVATELY ADVISED THAT US SHIPS WOULD NOT RPT NOT RECEIVE CLEARANCE SINCE THAT WOULD FORCE GSL TO AGREE TO SOVIET VISITS.

2. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION HERE WAS CHARY OF REQUESTING TRINCO VISIT BUT DECIDED TEST GSL THINKING AGAIN. MDFA OFFICIALS TOLD BRITISH DEFENSE ADVISER VISIT APPROVED BECAUSE OF QTE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP UNQTE BUT THAT MDFA WOULD CONTINUE DISCOURAGE REQUESTS FOR VISITS FROM OTHER FOREIGN NAVAL POWERS.

3. HMS CHICHESTER WILL TAKE NEW BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO MALDIVES TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS THIS WEEK (AMBASSADOR SMEDLEY HAS FLOWN TO GAN RAF FACILITY TO MEET SHIP) AND THEN CALL AT COLOMBO APRIL 5 FOR PORT VISIT.
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4. AUSTRALIAN NAVAL VESSELS HMAS PERTH AND DERWENT WILL ALSO VISIT COLOMBO APRIL 11 TO 14.
VAN HOLLEN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973COLOMB00847
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730431/aaaahksk.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <08-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971118
Subject: BRITISH NAVAL SHIP VISIT TO COLOMBO AND TRINCOMALEE CINCPAC PASS POLAD
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, AS, CE, MV, UK, PBOR
To: / ISA
CANBERRA
CINCPAC
ISLAMABAD
LONDON
NEA
NEW DELHI

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SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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